



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: July 28, 2017
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **2017 General Assembly Revisions to the Standards of Quality**

The 2017 General Assembly revised Standards One, Two, Three, and Four of the *Standards of Quality (SOQ)*, §§ [22.1-253.13:1](#) through [22.1-253.13:10](#), of the *Code of Virginia*. These changes became law effective on July 1, 2017.

Revisions to Standard One (§[22.1-253.13:1](#))

[HB 1552](#) Career and technical education; notification by school board to students and parents of programs.

Chief patron: Bulova

Summary: Requires each local school board to implement a plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of career and technical education programs and to include annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents of the opportunity for such students to obtain a nationally recognized career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college, or workforce center.

Revisions to Standard Two (§ [22.1-253.13:2](#))

[HB 2174](#) School boards; annual report on pupil/teacher ratios in elementary, middle, etc., school classrooms.

Chief patron: Murphy

Summary: Requires each school board to annually report to the public the actual pupil/teacher ratios in middle school and high school by school for the current school year, no later than December 31.

[HB 2395](#) / [SB 1516](#) Public Schools; dyslexia advisor.

Chief patron: Cline/Black

Summary: Requires one reading specialist employed by each local school board that employs a reading specialist to have training in the identification of and the appropriate interventions, accommodations, and teaching techniques for students with dyslexia or a related disorder and to have an understanding of the definition of dyslexia and a working knowledge of several topics relating to dyslexia.

Revisions to Standard Three (§ [22.1-253.13:3](#))

[SB 1098](#) Standards of Quality; standards for accreditation in public schools.

Chief patron: Newman

Summary: Requires that the regulations establishing standards for accreditation adopted by the Board of Education ensure that the accreditation process is transparent and based on objective measurements and that any appeal of the accreditation status of a school is heard and decided by the Board.

Revisions to Standard Four (§ [22.1-253.13:4](#))

[SB 1159](#) Public schools; career and technical education credential.

Chief patron: Reeves

Summary: Provides that career and technical education credential requirements may be satisfied with the successful completion of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

[HB 1982](#) Graduation requirements; verified units of credit, satisfactory score on the PSAT examination.

Chief patron: Greason

Summary: Requires the Board of Education, in establishing graduation requirements, to provide for the award of verified units of credit for a satisfactory score, as determined by the Board, on the Preliminary ACT (PreACT) or the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) examination.

For more information, please see:

- Attachment A for the full text of the 2017 *Standards of Quality* (with the changes effective July 1, 2017).
- The *Standards of Quality* in the *Code of Virginia*:
<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/>
- The final legislative report for the 2017 General Assembly session:
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/legislation/>
- Superintendent's Memorandum #206-17, which summarizes the 2017 legislation impacting public education: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2017/206-17.shtml

Please direct questions about this information to the Office of Policy at (804) 225-2092 or policy@doe.virginia.gov.

SRS/EMM/bj

Attachment:

- A. [2017 Standards of Quality with changes effective July 1, 2017](#) (PDF)